

Mt. Lubentia
NEAR Largo, Md.
Prince Georges County.

HABS No. MD-638
HABS
MD.
17. LARG.V
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of Washington, D.C.

Historic American Buildings Survey
Dwlos H. Smith, District Officer
1707 Eye St., N.W., Washington, D.C.

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Addendum To:
MOUNT LUBENTIA
(Magruder House)
603 Largo Road
Largo vicinity
Prince George's County
Maryland

HABS NO. MD-638

HABS
MD
17-LARG-Y,
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS AND
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

HABS
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17-LARG.V,
1-

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

MOUNT LUBENTIA
(Magruder House)

HABS NO. MD-638

Location: 603 Largo Road, Largo, Prince George's County,
Maryland

Present Owner: Frances S. Bowie (601 Largo Road)

Present Use: Private residence, rental property

Significance: Mount Lubentia is architecturally significant as probably the best example of Federal-style domestic architecture in Prince George's County. Its interior finish includes exceptionally fine moldings, mantels and built-in cabinets. Its elegance has set it apart from the time it was constructed by Dennis Magruder in 1798, when it was one of only four residences in the mid-county area valued at \$1500 or more. Its asymmetrical Federal plan--including an elegant open well stairway--and formal detailing put Mount Lubentia on par with the finer examples of architecture in the capital city of Annapolis.

In 1814, when the British came through this area during the War of 1812, the county records were brought to Mount Lubentia for safe keeping. The house has remained in the possession of the direct descendants of the original builder; six generations of the Magruder, Beall and Bowie families, from 1798 to the present, have lived at Mount Lubentia.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: Ca. 1798. The 1798 Federal Direct Tax lists Dennis Magruder's house as a two-story brick dwelling, 48'-0" x 37'-0" with a brick passage and kitchen adjoining the house, 32 feet square. It goes on to state that "the above dwelling house is not finished inside." Presumably the construction of the house was begun in 1798 and completed 1799. However, it is known that an earlier dwelling sat on this site which presumably burned. The roof rafters of the current

structure are charred along the bottom, the indication of a fire. Perhaps, then, the house was rebuilt on the interior in 1798-99.

2. Original and subsequent owners:

- 1779 Deed CC 2:644, 5 August 1779
Enoch Magruder
To
Dennis Magruder (son)
land (Norway), part of tract Largo "whereon dwelling house now stands", and all adjoining lands lying together in the fork of the Southwest and Western branches of the Patuxent River, 929 acres.
- 1832 Deed AB 7:349, 8 November 1832
Dennis Magruder, Sr.
To
Dennis Magruder, Jr.
All that part of Largo, Northhampton, Raneleigh and Westphalia now in possession of Dennis Magruder, Sr. west of Southwest Branch and road to Bladensburg; grantor to continue to occupy this land, on which are built the family dwelling, barn, stable, corn-house, shed and overseer's house, also the garden, orchard and meadow, and outhouses attached thereto. After the death of grantor, his wife, Mary Ann to occupy the house and land; after death or marriage of Mary Ann Magruder, then daughter of grantor (Mary Ann Magruder) to possess jointly with Dennis Magruder, Jr.
- 1835 Chancery B 153:412, 2 February 1835, Decree of Sale, December Term 1834
Thomas Duckett, trustee
To
John Contee and John B. Mullikin (mortgagees under mortgage AB 7:354 from Dennis Magruder, Jr. dated 8 November 1832), \$5,500
- 1835 Deed AB 9:406, 2 June 1835- record of above sale to Contee and Mullikin
- 1835 Deed AB 10:272, 13 November 1835
John Contee et ux and John B. Mullikin et ux
To
Dewit Kent

Parts of Largo, Northampton, Reneleigh and Westphalia, land of Dennis Magruder which was sold in 1835 to Contee and Mullikin, \$6,000.

- 1839 Deed AB 12:362, 1 May 1839
Dewit Kent and Juliana, his wife, of Prince George's County
To
Otto Beall
Parts of tracts called Largo, Northampton, Reneleigh and Westphalia conveyed to Kent by Contee and Mullikin, 396-3/4 acres by a recent survey, \$7,925.50
- 1839 Deed AB 12:364, 3 September 1839
Mary Ann Magruder
To
Otto B. Beall
All her interest in the land known as Largo, Northampton, Ranleigh and Westphalia, to which the grantor is entitled by deed from Dennis Magruder, Sr. to Dennis Magruder, Jr. and on which she now resides (dwelling house, negro quarter, use of orchard, stables, sheds, cornhouse, barn, etc.), \$2,000.
- 1856 Administration #266
Otto Berry Beall, deceased, died intestate
- 1882 Deed JWB 1:636, 14 December 1882
Washington J. Beall and Mary Ann, his wife
To
William John Bowie
Mount Lubentia, 311 acres, part of the land laid off to Washington J. Beall in the division of the real estate of Otto B. Beall.
- 1888 Administration #1340
William John Bowie, deceased, intestate; estate administered by widow, Rosalie Beall Bowie.
- 1960 Deed WDA 6:284, 19 October 1960
Washington Beall Bowie, testor
To
Frances Dodge Bowie, wife; and Forrest D. Bowie, son
Home farm, Mount Lubentia, 311 acres in Kent District; home to go to son, Forrest, after

the death of his mother.

1982 Deed 5546:148, 16 June 1982
 Frances S. Bowie and Suburban Trust Company,
 personal representatives of the estate of
 Forrest D. Bowie, deceased to Frances S.
 Bowie; 6.69 acres.... part of the land
 acquired by Will of Washington Beall Bowie.

3. Builder, supplier: The house was built or rebuilt for Dennis Magruder, Sr., either from or on the foundations of an earlier dwelling built for Enoch Magruder. Forrest Bowie speculated that the bricks used to construct the house were made on site as the soil here has a high clay content.

4. Original plans and construction: The 1798 Federal Direct Tax describes the house as a two-story brick dwelling house, 48'-0" x 37'-0", and a brick passage and kitchen adjoining the house 32 feet square (no drawings extant). Forrest Bowie's drawings of 1938 reveal the remains of the foundation of the original wing. Thus, while the main block is in its original state, the wing (originally hyphenated ?) was later rebuilt.

6. Alterations and additions: There originally was a wing adjacent to what is now the first story of the current wing, probably removed by William John Bowie who resided here from ca. 1856-1886 and added the Victorian-era porches (F. Bowie). It has been speculated that the current wing may have originally been used as a farm office and that the kitchen was in the basement (perhaps also with a separate kitchen building). This is supported by the fact that there is a large fireplace in the basement that could have been used for cooking, and the fact the interior finish of the current kitchen is rather formal (wainscoting, federal mantel, etc.). The kitchen wing appears in the historic views of ca. 1883-88 and ca. 1898, as a 1-1/2 story structure with a low-pitched gable roof which forms the roof of the facade porch, with two dormers. This structure was later raised to a full two stories by Washington Beall Bowie in 1911, creating two small bedrooms on the second floor (F. Bowie).

The large, single dormer to the west was added sometime between 1911 and 1918 (based on photos from those dates). In 1927 Washington Bowie also undertook the finishing and

partitioning of the attic of the main block. The two east dormers and the roof cresting were also added at that time (F. Bowie).

B. Historical Context:

The Mount Lubentia plantation house, in both plan and interior detailing, is of a formal and dignified Federal style. The size and appointments of the rooms and the considerable space given to the center stairhall reflects a refinement and sense of social space indicative of the period beginning in the mid-18th century. By the time of the Revolution, the early hall-and-parlor house form had given way to a larger plan based on formalism rather than functionalism. The four-room, Georgian-inspired plan was far more expansive, with specialization in the usage of rooms. Mount Lubentia epitomizes these ideals with its plan, grace and spaciousness. The formal stairhall and center passage occupies one-quarter to one-third of the first-floor space. In addition, each room--large and with high ceilings--differs slightly in its detailing.

The elegance and formality of Mount Lubentia is apparent immediately upon entering the house. There is a graceful, open-well stairway connecting with a center hall. The formality is further in evidence by the use of what appears to have been separate parlors for receiving guests and for family use. The receiving parlor--located near the front entry and the impressive stairhall--does not adjoin the family dining parlor which looks out over the garden to the rear of the house, carefully separating formal space from family space. In addition, each room is an entity unto itself, having its own particular moldings and interior finish such as mantels and built-in cabinets.

This is consistent with middle- and upper-middle-class custom during the 18th and early 19th centuries. According to Abbott Lowell Cummings in a discussion of Massachusetts dwellings of the 18th-century, of the four principal rooms on the ground floor, two would have served as parlors, one a "common parlor" for the family's use, and one a "best parlor" for receiving guests (Cummings, 225-226). Furthermore, china cupboards in the southwest room or family parlor suggest that this was used for dining. Snow Hill in Laurel, likewise, has cupboards in both the "dining room" and the "Hall." During the 20th century, the dining parlor was used as a

library (F. Bowie). The northwest room--with a pass-through to the pantry and kitchen--would have been the formal dining room.

The history of this property predates the current residence, and it is quite possible that the house was built (or rebuilt) on the foundations of an earlier dwelling (ca. 1760). This tract, known as Norway or Largo, was owned by Enoch Magruder (of Harmony Hall at Fort Washington) during the mid-18th century and consisted of 929 acres. The dwelling house then on the property was leased by Magruder to Reverend Jonathan Boucher. Boucher was the Rector of St. Barnabus Church and also operated a school for boys in Magruder's house, referred to by his students as "Castle Magruder." Among Boucher's students was the step-son of George Washington, John Parke Custis. Boucher was known as the most contentious of the church's rectors. He was a fervent Tory whose views often conflicted with those of his parishioners. He returned to England in 1775 (Virta, pgs 68-69).

In 1779, Enoch Magruder conveyed the property, "whereon my dwelling house now stands" to his son, Dennis Magruder (Deed CC 2:644). Dennis evidently completely rebuilt the dwelling, as the assessor for the Federal Direct Tax of 1798 noted that "the above dwelling house is not finished inside." He described the improvements as a two-story brick dwelling house, 48'-0" x 37'-0", and a brick passage and kitchen adjoining the house 32 feet square. Although Dennis Magruder later inherited Harmony Hall upon the death of his father, he chose to spend his life here (renting out Harmony Hall). When the British invaded Washington in the summer of 1814 the county records were moved here from the courthouse in Upper Marlboro for safe keeping (Pearl).

Upon his son Dennis Magruder, Jr.'s marriage in 1832, Dennis Sr. conveyed the family home to him, retaining a life estate for himself, his wife, and his daughter. It was at this time that the house became known as Mount Lubentia, from the Latin meaning "delight." Dennis, Jr., however, having mortgaged the property, was forced to sell to the mortgagees in June of 1835. The property was eventually sold to Governor Joseph Kent of the neighboring plantation, although Dennis, Sr., and his wife, Mary Ann, continued to live here until their deaths in 1836 and 1839 respectively. Prior to the death of Mary Ann Magruder the house was sold to Otho Berry Beall,

also of a neighboring plantation. His son, Washington Jeremiah Beall, married Mary Ann's daughter, also named Mary Ann, the next year and Mount Lubentia became their home (Pearl).

In the 1850s Washington and Mary Ann Beall built a new home and conveyed Mount Lubentia on 311 acres to their daughter and son-in-law, Rosalie and William John Bowie (Pearl). William died in 1886, leaving Rosalie to manage the farm and raise their young children. Tobacco was produced here and on a neighboring farm (totaling approximately 1000 acres). Their son, Washington Beall Bowie, undertook renovations to the house in 1911, just prior to his marriage to Frances Chapman Dodge of Georgetown. The most significant change was the raising of the current kitchen wing to a full two stories, adding two bedrooms above. There had been a previous wing attached to the kitchen which either burned or fell at this time--which may have led to the renovations of the current wing. It is possible that the current kitchen was a farm office and the wing, now gone, the kitchen. Washington also added central hot water heating. In 1927, Washington finished the attic and added the two east front dormers (F. Bowie).

Washington Bowie passed away in 1960, followed by his wife, Frances, in 1975. Both remained at Mount Lubentia until their deaths. Their son, Forrest Bowie, and his wife, Frances, had built their own residence on the hill above Mount Lubentia following their marriage in 1952. Forrest Bowie was an architect, and was prominent in the historic preservation movement in Maryland. He worked for the Historic American Buildings Survey in the late 1930s (during which time he executed drawings of Mount Lubentia), and was instrumental in the organization of Maryland Historical Trust. The house remained empty from 1975 until 1979, the year Forrest Bowie died, though it was maintained by Forrest and Frances Bowie. The house has since been rented, though Frances Bowie spends much time seeing to the careful maintenance of Mount Lubentia which she holds in trust for their three children (F. Bowie).

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The exterior of this Federal-period brick dwelling is symmetrically balanced with entries at both the front and rear (a carriage front and garden front). Its exterior detailing is understated, accentuated almost exclusively by its pilastered, pedimented frontispiece with semi-circular fanlight. The interior, however, is asymmetrical in plan with a large L-shaped stair/center hall, and is ornate in its detailing which varies with each room. Including an elegant flowing stairway, built-in cabinets, wainscoting and other elaborate moldings, Mount Lubentia is perhaps the finest Federal period house in the county.

2. Condition of fabric: Mount Lubentia appears to be in good condition, needing minor repairs such as patching of cracked plaster, etc.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: The main block is a two-story, five-bay-by-four-bay structure measuring approximately 48' x 37'. It has a low-pitched, hipped roof with dormers. The house is symmetrically balanced with front and rear entries (differing only in the frontispiece). At the north side is a two-story, two-bay wide, hipped roof kitchen wing.

2. Foundations: The foundations are of brick laid in Flemish bond (with queen's closers). The main block has a molded brick watertable.

3. Walls: The walls of the main block are of brick laid in Flemish bond, with thin mortar joints and queen's closers. The walls of the wing are also of brick, laid in Flemish bond on the first floor, and in common bond (6:1) in the added second floor.

4. Structural system, framing: The walls are of load-bearing masonry.

5. Porches: Porches cover the three central bays on the east front and west rear of the house. They both have low-hipped roofs covered with raised seam metal and are

supported by four columns across the front. The east front porch has plain, Doric columns and the west rear plain, squared posts resting on plinth blocks at either end. There is no balustrade, but on the west porch are built-in benches to either side. There is a balustraded roof deck (entered from a skylight in the finished attic).

6. Chimneys: The main block has two rectangular, interior, brick chimneys with corbelled caps located at the peak of the sloping sides of the hipped roof. Although the fireplaces inside the house are oriented north-south, the chimneys twist in the attic so that, from the exterior, they are oriented east-west. This arrangement is more suitable to the roofline and balance of the house. The south chimney serves four fireplaces, both parlors on the first floor and the southeast and southwest bedrooms on the second. The north chimney serves only two fireplaces (as the stairhall on both floors was unheated), the dining room and the northwest bedroom (and once served the basement fireplace as well). There is a third chimney in the kitchen wing, a square, interior brick chimney serving the fireplace located to the center of the north side (closed for the use of a stove as evidence by the stove-pipe hole).

7. Openings:

a. Doorways and doors: The entryways of Mount Lubentia are its most ornamental exterior feature. The east front has a frontispiece entry consisting of a pediment broken by a round-arched doorway which accommodates a semi-circular fanlight. The doorway is recessed with panelled reveals (in the arch as well). The outer edge of the arch is ornamented with gouge-work, and there is a keystone above. The doorway is flanked by fluted pilasters surmounted by blocks ornamented with medallions. The rear entry is similar but is without the pediment and ornamented blocks. It has the same semi-circular fanlight with an arched wooden surround. It is flanked with fluted pilasters which support the arch. The doors have eight raised panels, matching the reveals. At the south elevation is a basement stairwell. At the kitchen wing there are entries to the east front and north side.

b. Windows: The front and rear are both five bays across, the south side is four bays across, and the north side has only a single bay to the east front of the first story. The first story of the main block has nine-over-six-light double-hung sash windows and the second story has slightly shorter six-over-six-light double-hung sash windows. They have flat-arched brick lintels and wooden sills, and a narrow wooden inner bead surround. There are small, rectangular basement windows, one at each end of the front and rear facades and two at the east end of the south side facade. The kitchen wing has nine-over-nine-light double-hung sash windows in the first floor and six-over-six-light double-hung sash windows in the second. Like the main block, they have flat arched lintels and wood sills. Shutters exist but are not currently hanging. The shutter stays, which are still mounted, are reproductions of the one original that remained, which Forrest Bowie had made.

8. Roof:

a. Shape, covering: The main block has a low-pitched hipped roof with a balustraded widow's walk which is flanked by the chimneys. The roof is covered with raised-seam metal. The kitchen also has a low-hipped roof covered with raised-seam metal.

b. Cornice, eaves: There is a narrow boxed cornice with a crown mold underneath it, against a plain frieze board.

c. Dormers: There are five dormers on the main block, all added during the early 20th century. The large dormer at the west rear was added first, ca. 1912 when Washington Beall Bowie initially made renovations to the house. It is a large, gable-front dormer with a six-over-six-light double-hung sash window. (This dormer appears in a ca. 1912-1918 view of the house but the others do not appear until 1930). The two dormers at the east front are much smaller but also have gable roofs with six-over-six-light double-hung sash windows. There is a single dormer at both the north and side sides.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor Plans:

a. First floor: Mount Lubentia has an asymmetrical Georgian plan consisting of a center hall open to a stairhall where traditionally would be located the northeast room of a four-room plan. Thus, the house opens into this large L-shaped center/stair hall with doorways front and rear. The grand semi-circular stair is to the north. Under the stair is a large closet (lit by a window) and a doorway to a back hall leading into the dining room and a doorway to the basement. Returning to the center hall, there is a parlor to the south with a fireplace to the center of the west wall. Behind the parlor is the dining parlor or library with a fireplace to the center of the east wall flanked by Federal-style china cabinets. The dining room, across the center hall from the library, also has a fireplace at the east wall with a cupboard to the south side. To the north side is a doorway into the back hall.

At the north wall of the dining room is a pass-through cupboard into the pantry, next to a doorway into the kitchen wing. A hallway--with a pantry to the east and a partially boxed stairway to the west--connects the kitchen with the dining room. The kitchen is one large room with a fireplace (closed over) on the north wall with exterior doorways (into the porch) to the west and east.

b. Second floor: The second floor follows the same pattern as the first with a large L-shaped center/stair hall and three bed-chambers. There are three doorways along the south wall. The first is into the southeast bedroom where there is a fireplace along the west wall. The middle doorway leads to a boxed winder stairway into the partially finished attic. The third doorway leads into the southwest bedroom where there is a fireplace along the east wall with a closet to the south side. At the west end of the center hall is a large bathroom. To the northwest is another bedroom with a fireplace along the east wall with closets to either side. Through this bedroom is entered the second floor of the kitchen wing, with a small L-shaped hall with the stairway to the west, a closet

to the east and two doorways (at an angle) into small bedrooms.

c. Third floor: The third floor or attic has been partially finished and dormers added to provide light. The center portion is a single large room with built-in drawers and cupboard on the south wall and shelves on the north. There is a ladder-like stair to the widow's walk. A bathroom is to the west. To either side of the center room is an unfinished attic space (it is here that the twisting chimneys and charred roof-rafters are visible).

d. Basement: There is a full basement under the main block, entered from a stairway underneath the main stairway. Stone walls running north-south divide the basement into two sections. The former "winter kitchen" is located to the northwest with a large fireplace for cooking. It is now largely enclosed for the use of the furnace. Towards the south end of the room is the base of the chimney block for the southeast and southwest rooms, with a relieving arch.

2. Stairways: Mount Lubentia has one of the most impressive stairways in the county. It is an elegantly winding, open-string, open-well, two-run elliptical stair. It is the width of the entire front room. It runs along the length of the west wall, its low risers leading up fourteen steps to a landing. The landing, which looks up to the ceiling of the second floor, is the width of the room. The stair then turns and continues along the east front wall six more steps to the second-floor hall. The balustrade, uninterrupted by newel posts, runs from the second floor, curving around to the base of the stair where it spirals to form a newel. It has plain, approximately one-inch square balusters, three per step. Brackets are incised in the steps ends. A shadow baluster runs along the inside wall, underneath of which is flush panelled wainscoting. The landing area is lit by second-story windows at the north wall.

There is a boxed winder stairway from the second-floor hall into the partially finished attic. There is also a stairway in the kitchen wing. It is a partially enclosed, two-run stair with winders between the two flights.

3. Floors: The house has narrow board, wood floors with a dark stain throughout (except kitchen and bath).

4. Wall and ceiling finish: The walls and ceilings throughout are plaster. There is chair rail in every room of the main block and in the first floor of the kitchen wing, with paneled wainscoting in the first-floor rooms. The chair rail varies in the southeast and southwest rooms where it is fluted (though differing slightly). Elsewhere, it has a plain center band with a molded nosing. The wainscoting which appears on the first floor also varies. In the hall and northwest dining room the wainscoting has flush, beaded panels, in the southeast parlor it consists of wide, horizontal boards and in the southwest library, there are recessed panels.

There is also cornice molding in the first floor, and in the second-floor hall. There is cyma recta cornice molding in the halls (up and down) and in the southeast parlor and northwest dining room, and cavetto cornice molding in the southwest library.

5. Openings:

a. Doorways and doors: At the front and rear entries, fluted pilasters support the arch of the semi-circular fanlight. The doors are eight-panel. An elliptical arch divides the center hall, with fluted pilasters, a keystone in the arch and paneled reveals. As with the other moldings in the house, the doorways vary. The doorways under the main stairway mimic the arch, with elliptical arch and fluted pilasters. The doorways along the center hall, upstairs and down, have stepped architrave surrounds. The interior of the southeast and southwest parlors have shouldered, stepped architrave trim. The northwest dining room has shouldered, stepped architrave surrounds which are flared at the bottom (lamb's leg). The kitchen has architrave surrounds, as do the second floor bedrooms in the main block. The bedrooms in the wing have symmetrically molded trim. The doors are six-panel, cross-and-open-bible.

b. Windows: The windows, like the doorways, vary room-to-room. The windows in the center hall have stepped architrave surrounds with splayed, paneled reveals. In the southeast parlor the windows are

in recessed bays to the floor, with paneled wainscoting below the window and architrave trim. The windows have splayed reveals with paneled shutters that fold into them. In the southwest parlor or library the windows have shouldered architrave trim. The windows are recessed to the sill only, and have paneled shutters. In the dining room the windows are the same as in the library but with the more elaborate shouldered trim with the lamb's leg. The kitchen windows have architrave surrounds with splayed, paneled reveals, and the two west windows have paneled shutters. The second-floor bedrooms have a simpler window surround with a molded backband. There are interior paneled shutters in the northwest bedroom only.

6. Decorative features: There are six fireplaces with decorative mantels in the main block and one in the kitchen of the wing. The three first-floor mantels are similar but different. All the fireplaces are flanked by fluted pilasters with a frieze broken by a raised center panel and panels over the pilasters. Variations occur in the moldings above and below the frieze and in the frieze panels, which have reeded and/or dentiled trim or other carved patterns. The second-floor mantels are similar, federal-style mantels, each varying in its details. The most elaborate is that found in the southeast bedroom, which has a sunburst pattern in the center of the frieze, and smaller sunburst medallions atop the pilasters.

7. Architectural furniture: There are built-in cupboards in the southwest dining parlor and in the northwest formal dining room. In the dining parlor the fireplace is flanked by floor-to-ceiling china cabinets with fluted pilasters and a dentiled broken pediment. The round-arched, double glass doors have ornate geometric-pattern muntins, with a wavy sunburst-pattern tracery in the arch. The shelves of the cupboards are scalloped. There is a paneled double-door cabinet below. To the side of the south cupboard is a paneled-door chimney cabinet. In the dining room, there is a round-arched chimney cabinet to the south side of the fireplace. It has a flush-panel door, a keystone in the arch and there is a cabinet below. At the north wall of the dining room is a built-in pass-through cupboard into the pantry. It has a shouldered architrave surround with lamb's leg, double two-paneled doors above and a double paneled-door cabinet below. Inside are plain shelves open to the pantry.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: Mount Lubentia sits atop a knoll, facing east towards Largo Road, although far enough away from it not to be visible. A driveway leading from Largo Road begins at the northeast then turns to the south past the front of the house at the bottom of the knoll. There is a garage to the southeast of the house along the drive, but the drive continues from here on to the farm outbuildings southwest of the house. A path leads from the garage/parking area north past the front of the house. The house and outbuildings and surrounding grounds consist of 6.69 acres.

2. Historic landscape design: To the west rear of the house are the remnants of a formal garden. Numerous large old trees surround the house.

3. Outbuildings: There is a collection of outbuildings to the southwest of the house. There is a tall corncrib connected by a shed roof to form a pass-through to a shed. Adjacent to this is a two-story stable building. Also on site, to the north of the house, is an 18th-century octagonal dairy building which was moved here from the nearby farm of "Graden" (now gone), the 19th-century home of Washington Beall's cousin, George Berry. The dairy is approximately 12' in diameter and has heavy hewn sills with mortise and tenon joints. It is wood frame with brick nogging and has a pyramidal roof. The unglazed windows are covered with lattice and have board-and-batten shutters with HL hinges.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Architectural Drawings: Drawings of Mount Lubentia were executed by Forrest Bowie in 1938 and are in the possession of his wife, Frances Bowie, the current owner.

B. Early Views: Already in the HABS collection are twenty views of Mount Lubentia. The first two are photo-copies of historic views owned by the family. One is a ca. 1883-1888 view from the northeast of the east front elevation. It shows the kitchen wing as a 1-1/2 story dormered structure with a porch across the facade. The other is a ca. 1898 view taken by the American View Company, Charlotte, NC which is also a view showing the east front. The next two views were taken by Forrest Bowie, ca. 1938, and show the east front and the east

front and south side. The remainder were taken by HABS photographer John O. Brostrup between April of 1936 and April of 1937, including three exteriors (front, rear and doorway detail) and six interior details.

C. Interviews: Interview with the current owner, Mrs. Frances Bowie, widow of Forrest Bowie, 21 March 1990 and 17 September 1990.

D. Bibliography:

1. Primary and unpublished sources:

Pearl, Susan G. (Prince George's County Historic Preservation Commission) Maryland Historical Trust, State Historic Sites Inventory Form, Mount Lubentia, prepared September 1986.

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2. Secondary and published sources:

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Cummings, Abbott Lowell. "Inside the Massachusetts House." Common Places, Ed. Dell Upton & John M. Vlach. Athens & London: The University of Georgia Press, 1986.

Virta, Alan. Prince George's County: A Pictorial History. Norfolk, Va.: The Donning Publishing Company, 1984.

Prepared By: Catherine C. Lavoie
Historian
Historic American Buildings Survey
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PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

The documentation of Mount Lubentia was undertaken as part of a cooperative project between the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS), Robert J. Kapsch, chief; and the Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission on behalf of the Prince George's County Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) to document select sites throughout the county. Phase I of the project began in January of 1989, and the second phase of which this project was a part, began in March of 1990. Gail Rothrock, director, and Susan G. Pearl, research historian, of the HPC made the selection of sites. They also provided access to their research and information on file with the HPC as well as their extensive knowledge of county history. The large format photography was undertaken by HABS photographer Jack E. Boucher. HABS historian Catherine C. Lavoie prepared this historical report and accompanied the photographer into the field for on site inspection.

ADDENDUM TO:
MOUNT LUBENTIA
(Magruder House)
601 Largo Road
Largo vicinity
Prince George's County
Maryland

HABS MD-638
MD, 17-LARG. V, 1-

PAPER COPIES OF COLOR TRANSPARENCIES

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240-0001

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PHOTOGRAPHS

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